

Applicant Name Malta Irrigation District

Project Name Dodson North Canal Regulating Reservoir

Project Abstract

The Malta Irrigation District is part of the Milk River Project and contains 42,492 irrigable acres. Water is supplied to these acres through a diversion dam at Dodson on the Milk River, which feeds into the Dodson South and Dodson North canals. Dodson South supplies water for irrigation, Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, and Nelson Reservoir, which stores water for the Malta and Glasgow Irrigation districts. Dodson North supplies water for the Malta and Dodson irrigation districts.

A Water Conservation Plan is in place and one of the identified projects that would conserve a considerable amount of water: a 261 acre-foot gravity flow-regulating reservoir on Dodson North Canal.

It takes seven days for water from Fresno to reach Dodson Dam; other irrigation districts, pumpers, and Dodson Irrigation District all take water at the same time. A regulating reservoir would allow the district to hold water so that we could adjust to the fluctuation of the Dodson North Canal. This canal is about 28 miles long and this fluctuation causes a domino effect to everyone irrigating below it. If water could be held, in a reservoir on this canal, releasing water in a timely manner would conserve approximately 1,138 acre-feet of water per year. Another plus to this proposal would be the fact that this would be a gravity flow reservoir, so no machinery or pumps would be required.

By creating a small regulating reservoir, habitat for wildlife, a migratory stop for birds, and possible recreational opportunities would be provided.